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IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions.

1-4. (Canceled).

5. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a heterologous nucleotide sequence, a single retroviral long terminal repeat (LTR), a packaging signal, a rev responsive element, a polypyrimidine tract, a eukaryotic promoter, a primer binding site, a bacterial origin of replication and a bacterial selection marker, and wherein the U3 region of the LTR comprises a loxP site.

6. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid of claim 5, further comprising a central polypyrimidine tract.

7. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid of claim 5, further comprising a post-transcriptional regulatory element.

8. (Previously presented) A vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 5.

9. (Currently amended) The nucleic acid of claim 5, wherein a major portion of enhancer and promoter sequences of the U3 region of the LTR is are deleted and minimal sequences required for integration at the 5' end of the LTR are not deleted and the LoxP site is not deleted.

10. (Currently amended) The nucleic acid of claim 59, wherein the portion of the U3 region that has been deleted is replaced with an inducible promoter.

11. (Canceled).

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12. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid of claim 5, wherein the U3 region of the LTR comprises a restriction site.
13. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a 5' retroviral LTR and a 3' retroviral LTR, a heterologous nucleotide sequence, a packaging signal, a rev responsive element, a polypurine tract, a eukaryotic promoter, a primer binding site, a bacterial origin of replication and a bacterial selection marker, wherein the bacterial origin of replication and bacterial selection marker are located between the two LTRs, and wherein the U3 region of the 3' LTR comprises a *loxP* site.
14. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid of claim 13, further comprising a central polypurine tract.
15. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid of claim 13, further comprising a post-transcriptional regulatory element.
16. (Currently amended) The nucleic acid of claim 13, wherein a major portion of the enhancer and promoter sequences of the U3 region of the LTR is deleted and minimal sequences required for integration at the 5' end of the LTR are not deleted and the *LoxP* site is not deleted.
17. (Currently amended) The nucleic acid of claim 13, wherein the portion of the U3 region that has been deleted is replaced with an inducible promoter.
18. (Canceled).
19. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid of claim 13, wherein the U3 region of the LTR comprises a restriction site.

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20. (Currently amended) A method of producing a single-LTR circular ~~HIV-1~~_{retroviral} form plasmid, comprising:

- a. introducing a shuttle vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 5 into a eukaryotic cell;
- b. extracting non-integrated DNA from the eukaryotic cell;
- c. transforming a bacterial cell with the DNA of step (b);
- d. selecting a bacterial cell showing expression of a selection marker; and

isolating a single-LTR circular ~~HIV-1~~_{retroviral} plasmid from the bacterial cell.

21. (Previously presented) A method of making a retroviral vector particle, comprising:

- a) introducing the vector of claim 8 into a retroviral packaging cell in medium, said packaging cell comprising nucleotide sequences encoding rev, gag/pol and env proteins but lacking packaging sequences; and
- b) collecting retroviral vector particles from the medium.

22. (Currently amended) A method of producing a retroviral expression vector, comprising cloning the nucleic acid of claim 15 into a non-retroviral expression vector.

23. (Currently amended) ~~A~~_{The} retroviral expression vector produced by the method of claim 2422.

24. (Withdrawn) A method of isolating a cDNA sequence that encodes a gene product that results in a particular phenotype upon contact with a test substance, comprising:

- a. producing a cDNA library in a population of nucleic acids of Claim 145;
- b. introducing the nucleic acids of step (a) into eukaryotic cells;
- c. exposing the cells of step (b) to, or contacting the surface of the cells of step (b) with, the test substance;
- d. introducing a nucleic acid encoding Cre protein into surviving cells of step (c) under conditions whereby the Cre protein nucleic acid is expressed;
- e. extracting circular DNA from the cells of step (d);
- f. transforming a bacterial cell with the circular DNA of step (e); and

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- g. isolating from the bacterial cell the cDNA sequence that encodes a gene product that results in a particular phenotype upon contact with a test substance.
25. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 24, wherein the cDNA library is produced by cloning an isolated nucleic acid comprising a single retroviral long terminal repeat (LTR), a polypurine tract, a packaging signal, a primer binding site and a rev responsive element into a non-retroviral cDNA library.
26. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 24, wherein the U3 region of the LTR comprises a restriction site.
27. (Withdrawn) A method of isolating a cDNA sequence that encodes a gene product that results in a particular phenotype upon contact with a test substance, comprising:
 - a. producing a cDNA library in a population of nucleic acids of Claim 4813;
 - b. introducing the nucleic acids of step (a) into eukaryotic cells;
 - c. exposing the cells of step (b) to, or contacting the surface of the cells of step (b) with, the test substance;
 - d. introducing a nucleic acid encoding Cre protein into surviving cells of step (c) under conditions whereby the Cre protein nucleic acid is expressed;
 - e. extracting circular DNA from the cells of step (d);
 - f. transforming a bacterial cell with the circular DNA of step (e); and
 - g. isolating from the bacterial cell the cDNA sequence that encodes a gene product that results in a particular phenotype upon contact with a test substance.
28. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 27, wherein the cDNA library is produced by cloning an isolated nucleic acid comprising a single retroviral long terminal repeat (LTR), a polypurine

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tract, a packaging signal, a primer binding site and a rev responsive element into a non-retroviral cDNA library.

29. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 27, wherein the U3 region of the LTR comprises a restriction site.